The auction process would establish the entitlement to import from India. The Russian Government has assured that those importers who win the entitlement to import through the auction would still be required to follow- the Inter-Governmental agreements. The goods can, therefore only be exported to Russia and diversion of these goods to other countries is not permissible.

(e) Under the present Inter-Governmental agreements India's rupee debt repayments to Russia can only be used for export of Indian goods and services to Russia. The Russian Government has indicated its interest in using a portion of our rupee debt repayments for setting up joint ventures in India. However, no concrete proposals have yet been received, and the detailed modalities are yet to be agreed upon between the two sides.

Failure of United Bank of India to open branches in the North-eastern Zone

98. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Bank of India has failed to open many branches in the north-eastern zone inspite of Reserve Bank of India's instructiosn; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that United Bank of India was allotted 79 centres for opening branches in the North Eastern Region under 1985-90 Plan, out of which 14 authorisation were pending with the bank as at the end of the plan period extended upto 31st March 1993. The reasons for not opening branches at the pending centres allotted by RBI are lack of basic infrastructural facilities like non availability of suitable premises, all whether roads. Telecommunication, Security etc. Subsequently, RBI had decided to treat all the pending licences issued under the earlier policy as canceled|lapsed with effect from 1st April 1993 and banks were advised to surrender the relative licences to the concerned Regional Offices for cancellation thereof,. Under the 1990-95 Plan, United Bank of India has been allotted 4 localities in urban areas of North Eastern State for opening its branches out of which one authorisation is pending for Guwahati in Assam. In addition to above, on the basis of centres indentified by the bank for opening of branches at semi-urban centres, RBI has advised their Guahati Regional Office to issue licences in respect of three centres namely Viswanath, Chareli in Sonitpur District of Assam, Aizwal in Mizoram and Bisalgarh (Beltali) in the West Tripura District of Tripura State, as and when approached by the bank after finalisation of necessary infrastructure, at the concerned centres. However, so far no licences have been issued in the above cases. RBI is of the view that the bank has been able to implement the branch expansion programme satisfactorily.

रूस द्वारा भारतीय रुपये की नीलामी

99. श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रूस भारतीय माल की नीलामी करने जा रहा है ;

(ख) रूस के पास भारतीय रुपयों की कुल कितनी राशि पड़ी है और इसमें से कितनी राशि की नीलामी करने का उनका विचार है ;

(ग) यदि पश्चिमी देशों के बैंकिंग दलालों ने वह रुपया खरीद लिया और इसका उपयोग भारतीय जिंसों के व्यापार के लिए किया, तो क्या उससे भारत को विदेशी मुद्रा का भारी नुकसान होगा ; और

(घ) इस नुकसान को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखरमूर्ति) :

(क) रूस सरकार ने भारत के वार्षिक रुपए ऋण वापसी के भाग की, रूस में भावी आयातकों के बीच जिन से भारत से प्रभावी आयात के लिए दी जा रही हकदारी से पहले रूस सरकार के लेखे में रूबल जमा किए जाने की अपेक्षा की जाएगी, नीलामी किए जाने के अपने आशय का संकेत किया है।

(ख) 8-7-94 तक भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक में रूस के केन्द्रीय सरकार के लेखे में कुल अधिशेष लगभग 3168 करोड़ रुपए था।

(ग) और (घ) नीलामी प्रक्रिया केवल भारत से आयात की हकदारी स्थापित करेगी। रूस सरकार ने आश्वासन दिया है कि वे रूसी आयातक जो नीलामी के माध्यम से आयात किए जाने की हकदारी प्राप्त करते हैं, उनसे अब भी परस्पर दोनों सरकारों के बीच हमारे रुपए ऋण वापसी के बदले में रूस को माल के निर्यात पर करारों के अनुपालन किए जाने की अपेक्षा की जाएगी। इसलिए, माल रूसी आयातकों द्वारा रूस को केवल आयात किए जाने के लिए परिकल्पित किए जाते हैं।

Foreign assitance from external Agencies

100. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance received by the country from foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) the names of the countries, from which the foreign assistance or loan was received;

(c) how much of the assistance and loan was with interest and how much without interest-sourcewise;

(d) how much of the foreign assistance and loans remained unutilised or underutilised and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the foreign loan outstanding against the country as on date, countrywise and institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is given in the Annexure. (*See* Appendix 171, Annexure No. 1)

(d) The total unutilised foreign loans and grants was Rs. 83102 crores as on 31st March, 1994.

Most of external assistance is tied to specific projects and the disbursement are, therefore, linked to the project implemeniation schedules. The pace of actual implementation varies from project to project. However the loan amount not utilised during a particular financial year does not normally lapse and is carried forward for utilization in the subsequent year. Among the major factors responsible for slow utilisation are inadequate counter-part funding, procurement delays, deficiencies in contract supervision and operational complexities of the planning process and resource transfers.